

A Discouraging Surprise Attack (1 Samuel 30 1-6)

I. A Devastating Attack

(They Took That Which Was...)

- A. Provisional (The Familiar)
- B. Prospering (The Financial)
- C. Precious (The Familial)

II. A Despairing Aftermath

- A. There Was Brokenness
- B. There Was Barrenness
- C. There Was Bitterness

III. A Desperate Approach

- A. He Clave To God's Person
- B. He Confided In God's People
- C. He Craved God's Path

IV. A Determined Advance

- A. A Comforting Promise
- B. A Courageous Persistence
- C. A Kind Providence

V. A Decisive Apprehension

- A. Justice Was Revealed
- B. Joy Was Regained

A Discouraging Surprise Attack (1 Sam 30:1-6)

It started out as a beautiful Hawaiian morning. But in two hours on that Dec. 7th morning a surprise attack by the Japanese devastated our nation's Pacific fleet. The wake of that surprise attack left 2,403 dead, 188 planes destroyed and 8 battleships destroyed or damaged. A surprise attack. When we least expected it. Although Japanese planes do not crash into our houses, yet we as individuals are vulnerable to disheartening, devastating, discouraging surprise attacks. A surprise attack may come in the form of a letter, a phone call, a conversation or even the turn of the wheel.

I. A Devastating Attack - David and his men were coming back from being on the brink of a battle. Thankfully, they were spared. Moral was high, laughter heard on the hand until they crossed the ^{Hill before Ziph}.

A. Providential (The Familiar) - They had burned down their houses, their barns their animal pens every thing familiar w/ home. When we were at camp meeting Tuesday night Bro Brauer's house. That which was familiar was gone w/ ^{other difficult to deal w/}.

B. Prospering (The Financial) - We find out later that the enemy took their lively-
-hood their flocks and herds. Those things which God had prospered them with. We in this time could easily encounter such a disaster.

C. Precious (The Family) - Houses and
barns, flock & herds are one thing but family
is quite another thing altogether. The flock that
which was precious. Wives, children, that which
can't be replaced. As frightening a thought it might be

II. A Despairing Aftermath - Have you
ever seen the frantic look on the face of a mother
or father search for a child. Can you see these
fathers running to their homes, calling out their ^{names}

A. Brokenness ^{v54a} They lifted up their
voices and wept hot tears of sorrow. Sorrow
is a proper god given emotion that is to be
expressed. But sorrow unchecked can
quickly turn in to

B. Barrenness ^{v54b} Emptiness. They
wept & wept and wept until they were un-
able to weep any more. Then instead of look-
ing to the Lord, their hearts became empty
and despairing. What's the use in going on? Depression

C. Bitterness ^{v56b} A futile attempt to
find answers, the men in bitterness began
to blame David. There started to be finger
pointing. I have seen this often in the death of
a family member, the family ^{wake} began to point and blame.

III. A Desperate Approach - In ch
27 at a previous time of desperation, David followed
the counsel of his own heart leading him into an alliance
w/ the enemy. But now he turns his face heavenward

A. David Come to God's Person - David discon-
suled in

1) Here in our text, David and his men come upon the aftermath of a surprise attack upon their homes and as we read in vs. 4 & 6, the loss caused despair, distress and discouragement. Every one of us sooner or later will come across the hillside just like David and come face to face with a discouraging surprise attack. But in this account as spiritual principals that can shield us from endless despair. The first thing we see in this account is...

2) ...crossed the hill before Ziklag, and realized what had happened. The Enemy had taken that which was

3) ..it might be, we must realize that our families that which is precious is vulnerable to a surprise attack. This is why I'm preaching this message to you, so that when the smoke rises over the hill and you see the results of a surprise attack, you will know what to expect and to do.

4) ...point and tare each other apart instead of hold one another together.

- 1) **Psalms 27:10** *When my father and my mother forsake me, then the LORD will take me up. **Psalms 18:6** In my distress I called upon the LORD, and cried unto my God: he heard my voice out of his temple, and my cry came before him, even into his ears. **Psalms 56:3-4** What time I am afraid, I will trust in thee. In God I will praise his word, in God I have put my trust; I will not fear what flesh can do unto me.*
- 2) ...path God wants him to take. In order to rise above distresses and discouragements, we are to lift our eyes and long for His direction in our lives. One author writes: "We cannot encourage ourselves much in (the Lord) unless we are prepared to submit our way to Him."
- 3) ...no matter how dismal the circumstances are the child of God can know that our hope can be recovered! That once again we can know joy. **Romans 8:28** *And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to his purpose.*
- 4) ...become discouraged and despairing and we become side lined, we don't take God at his word and trust that all will be recovered. We wallow in self-pity, instead of pressing "toward the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus. (Philippians 3:14) Keep perusing even when those around you are faint!

heart did not say to himself, but encouraged himself in the Lord His God. You see he clung to what he knew was true about his God. When his precious Lamb lie in the mouth of the Lion, God granted strength to save its life. Ps 7:10. Ps 18:6

B. David Confided in God's People - He calls for Abiathar the priest. He called out to the people of God. It is good to know that we can call upon our brothers & sisters in Christ who can cry and care and call out to God by our side.

C. David Craved God's Path - David called for the ephod, a breast plate of 12 stones, but in that ephod was the Urim & Thummim, it was used by the priest for making decisions. David did not want to follow his heart, he wanted God's direction, the path God wanted him

IV. A Determined Clearance - There is nothing more invigorating and renewing than getting a word from the Lord. Nothing clears away the darkness of despair and discouragement, like a word from God.

A. A Comforting Promise vs 8d - The Urim & Thummim are described as giving only a yes or No answer. Here we get a yes, Pursue, but David also gets a promise. "Recover all!" There is hope found in God's word there is a promise to stand on. No matter dismal the circumstances

B. A Courageous Persistence vs 9-10 David acted on this promise, He just didn't sit there, the command was to Pursue "Go!" The time of sorrow is now over! It is now time to move and Pursue after a complete recovery. A lot of us have

C. A Kind Providence vs 11-16 - God led David to pursue. I'm sure that might be able to see which way they left the area, but maybe lost their trail. God providentially provided not only the promise, but the provisions to fulfill the promise! Jones Smith

V. A Decisive Apprehension - Is 55:11

vs 16b. This Egyptian boy led them right to the enemy. David and his men caught them unaware.

A. Justice Was Revealed - vs 16b-17 - David smote them for a complete 24 hours. ⁽³⁾ De 35:35. This justice was from God by the hand of David. God deals with our adversaries. God will make every crooked path straight. Psalms 9:7-8. God will deal with the marauders that steal our joy and courage. Revelation 20:10 tells us of the final justice.

B. Joy Was Restored - vs 18-20 What a glorious ending. Just like God promised David recovered all. All that had been lost was reunited with David. Can you picture this scene. Husbands with wives, children with fathers! Restoration! God can restore our joy. God can break the stronghold of discouragement if we will focus our heart upon God.

VI. Closing - Are you discouraged by a sneak attack. Have you got the wind knocked out of you? Don't let brokenness turn to bitterness + bitterness, cling to the Lord! Remember he is a sure foundation in a shaky world. David encouraged in the Lord. His God! Is he your God!

- 1) James Smith : "The means are in God's hand as well as the end; and the things that God chooses are "weak and despised" in the eyes of the ungodly, like this Egyptian, but mighty to the pulling down of the strongholds of Satan." So as you pursue, keep your eyes open for God's provision to point the way. "Where God guides, He provides!"
- 2) Isaiah 55:11 So shall my word be that goeth forth out of my mouth: it shall not return unto me void, but it shall accomplish that which I please, and it shall prosper in the thing whereto I sent it.
- 3) Deuteronomy 32:35 To me belongeth vengeance, and recompence; their foot shall slide in due time: for the day of their calamity is at hand, and the things that shall come upon them make haste.
- 4) Psalms 9:7-8 But the LORD shall endure for ever: he hath prepared his throne for judgment. And he shall judge the world in righteousness, he shall minister judgment to the people in uprightness.
- 5) Revelation 20:10 And the devil that deceived them was cast into the lake of fire and brimstone, where the beast and the false prophet are, and shall be tormented day and night for ever and ever.
- 6) ...upon God. You may not get your family member back from the grave. You may not get you job, home, or finances back but joy and courage can be restored.